Steps to boost morale of Middle Level Officers in the Army

†3428. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the arrangements made to encourage officers, specially middle level officers (Captain and Major) in the army;

(b) the number of officers who played their role successfully during Kargil war and what incentives were given to them; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in order to boost the morale of officers and to promote them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMANLAL GUPTA) : (a) The army has various avenues for career enhancement in the form of professional and competitive courses to encourage middle level officers to progress inservice. In addition upto the rank of Majors, officers get acting and substantive time-based promotions.

(b) 'OP Vijay' (Kargil) was a war like engagement where a large part of the Indian Army including Officers were mobilised. The role played by the officers so deployed has been widely feted and acclaimed by all quarters. The families of the Martyrs have been provided with sizable compensations in keeping with the national sentiments.

(c) A report focused on the Restructuring of the Officers' Cadre of the Army is currently under consideration in this connection.

Facilities for parents of Soldiers and Officers

†3429. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR : Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the facilities to be provided to the parents of soldiers and officers by issuing them identity cards;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain Canteens do not provide proper facilities on the basis of these identity cards, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what arrangements would be made for providing more facilities to their parents in order to boost the morale of soldiers ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.